environmental protection measures and ensure that affected families were rehabilitated;

(d) if so, whether differences continued to persist among the States about the modalities of the rehabilitation of the Koustees;

(e) if so, what were the main differences in this regard; and

(f) to what extent all the outstanding issues were settled during the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (f) Discussions in the meeting taken by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and the Union Minister of Environment & Forests on 12-1-1994 centred around the release of 1500 hectares of forest land for resettlement and rehabilitation of Sardar Sarovar Project affected families in Maharashtra and also for the continuance of the work of Sardar Sarovar Project. It was felt that the work on Sardar Sarovar Project should proceed and all that was required to be done on priority in all areas likely to be permanently submerged must be completed on time and this should be worked out by the Ministries and the States. It was also agreed to dereserve 1500 hectares of additional forest land in Maharashtra for rehabilitation, in the special circumstances of the case. The modalities of rehabilitation of the oustees of the Sardar Sarovar Project were not discussed in the meeting.

Priority to Sprinkler and Drip Irrigation

5189. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency convention held in February, 1994 has recommended that sprinkler and drip irrigation should receive high priority to conserve water consumption in scarce and drought prone areas;

(b) if so, whether it has also recommended a need to enact legislation to regulate the use of ground water to avoid over-exploitation and use of trans-border acquifers;

(c) if so, whether concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government is likely to implement these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Fifth National Water Convention held in February, 1994 does not include any specific suggestion regarding the use of sprinkler and drip irrigation. However, its recommendations include Legislation to regulate the use of ground water, especially for avoiding over exploitation and use of trans boundary acquifers. Also artificial recharge schemes have been recommended in over exploited areas by suitable methods.

(c) to (e) It is for the action by the State Governments.

Guidelines to improve efficiency of irrigation systems

5190. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several policy guidelines were formulated during 1987 to improve efficiency of irrigation systems;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to non-implementation of the guidelines the performance of irrigation system was far below the expectations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the gross revenue is currently below the working expenses, occurring the deficit of over Rs. 1,200 crores; and

(d) what steps Government proposed to take to improve irrigation systems and make them economically viable ?